

FIRST DRAFT

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ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE

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PICUS

" MEDICINE MAN "

(Tentative Title)

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C A S T

NARRATOR.
DOC TURNER.
COATES.
INSPECTOR ROY THORNTON.
INSPECTOR WILLS
DOCTOR FINCH.
CLAUDE RALSTON
RALPH HARRIS.
DOCTOR ALAN
TECHNICIAN.
DETECTIVE SYMES
ALFORD.
WILBUR.
MANAGER

UNDER FIVE

WIFE.
"REVEREND" DICKINSON.
MAN
AMY

EDWARDS:

Good evening everybody...coast to coast...this is Douglas Edwards. Tonight.. a story about one of the great robberies of all time. The money stolen..half a billion dollars. The victims...most everyone. A crime so successful...that each year it is repeated. A crime in which the victims themselves often willingly cooperate.

Although each robbery seems different ..each depends for its success on the same cruel deception. The promise to cure the infirm..and bring health to the sick. A promise..that is a lie.

DISSOLVE TO:

(LAB. PILL MACHINE STAMPING OUT PILLS..ATTENDED BY A MAN WITH ROLLED UP SHIRTSLEEVES)

(NOTE: IT IS THE RUNDOWN LAB THAT WILL APPEAR IN THE STORY)

EDWARDS: (VO)

In just a few moments...MEDICINE MAN... on the ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE.

ACT ONEFADE IN:

EDWARDS: (VO)

(NARROW DRAB HALLWAY
OUTSIDE A DOOR MARKED
...SOUTHERN CHURCH
ALLIANCE. PRINTING IS
ON THE FROSTED GLASS TOP
OF THE DOOR.

These...are the sick. A
few of the many holding
on to life.

SLOW PAN ON THE FACES...PATIENT,
WORRIED, OTHERS HOPEFUL...SOME
JUST WAITING)

DISSOLVE TO:

(FILM. A LARGE HOS-
PITAL, EXT.)

For most...hope lies here.
But for many..too many ..
desperation sends them
elsewhere.

DISSOLVE TO:

(LIMBO. CU-SPECTRO-
METER. IT LOOKS LIKE
A JUKEBOX WITH MANY
NAKED COLORED BULBS
FLASHING ON AND OFF
IN VARIOUS PROGRES-
SIONS. THE NAME...
SPECTROMETER...IS LET-
TERED ON THE BOX. PULL
BACK SLIGHTLY AS DISTIN-
GUISHED MAN IN LAB

Anxious to believe...
anxious to try a new cure.
Ten thousand people paid three
hundred dollars each for a
diagnosis from this machine.
Its inventor claims it will
cure arthritis, cancer, tuber-
culosis, heart disease and
fifty-one other illnesses.
(SLIGHT BEAT)
It is a fake.

COAT AND GLASSES
PUTS IN GLASS SIDES..
IN SLOTS BENEATH THE
LIGHTS)

EDWARDS: (VO) (Cont'd)

DISSOLVE TO:

(LIMBO. CU-ZERRET
APPLICATOR. IT IS
IN A MAN'S HAND AS
HE ROLLS IT SLOWLY
UP AND DOWN HIS UPPER
LEG.)

(NOTE: IT IS A
DUMBELL-LIKE ELASTIC
DEVICE)

For fifty dollars apiece..
thousands have tried an in-
vention called...the Zerret
Applicator. Claiming that
radioactive water inside the
device would expand the atoms
of the body...it was recom-
mended for curing bursitis,
influenza, anemia, asthma
and forty-two other afflic-
tions.

(SLIGHT BEAT)

It is a fake.

DISSOLVE TO:

(LIMBO. PAN THE DE-
VICES..OR CUT TO
THEM...AS THE NARRA-
TION HIGHLIGHTS THEM)

An electric belt to rejuv-
enate the tissues.

A sound wave machine to
reduce.

A mechanical heart to stop
baldness.

An "atomic" closet to cure
arthritis.

EDWARDS: (VO) (Cont'd)

Hundreds of devices..plunder-
ing the American people,
Promising everything to every-
one.

DISSOLVE TO:

(INT. THE ALLIANCE

MEETING ROOM. A

LECTERN AND PULPIT

AT THE FAR END OF THE

ROOM GIVES IT THE

APPEARANCE OF A RE-

LIGIOUS MEETING HALL.

PEOPLE IN SEATS..

LISTENING TO DOC

TURNER. HE IS AN

ARRESTING LOOKING

MAN CLOSE TO FIFTY

BUT HIS STRAIGHT, WELL

BUILT FIGURE AND VIG-

OROUS MANNER MAKES HIM

LOOK YOUNGER. HE

WEARS A BLACK SUIT

AND THE STRING TIE

OF A PARSON)

The ignorant..the educated.

All have listened to the
promise of a long and happy
life.

Among those to whom they have
listened is this man. One of
the country's most ingenious
medical frauds.

A swindler, who, in the next
six months...will threaten the
lives of thousands of innocent
people.

(AS CRAWL SUPERS..PAN THE AUDIENCE..

AS THEY LISTEN)

(DOC TURNER IS A SPELL-BINDER. A MAN OF GREAT PERSUASION AND CHARM. HE HAS SINCERITY AND TALKS TO THEM IN A MIXTURE OF INDIGNATION, NAIVE HUMOR AND FORCEFULNESS. HE TRULY ENJOYS CONNING AN AUDIENCE. IT IS THE TIME HE FEELS MOST JOYOUS AND ALIVE.)

(THE AUDIENCE IS INTENT ON EVERY WORD)

DOC:

(UNDER NARRATION)

The Neptune Era will be known for its great spiritual forces and for the coming of the millennium. For then and only then will the prophecies of Revelation be fulfilled. If you want

EDWARDS: (VO)

Name ... Matthew Turner. Alias the Reverend Jesse Mattson. Alias Doctor Jeremiah Stiles. He holds self-awarded degrees from ... the College of Drugless Physicians ... the Institute of Ortho-Optics ... and the Western College of Psychophysics ... three schools which do not exist.

He has been arrested for ... a gold mine swindle ... practicing medicine without a license ... racketeering under the guise of religion ... selling quack medical devices ... and seven other related charges on conspiracy to defraud. Here, in Augusta, Georgia ... with the help of a fake religious cult ... he is conducting his latest business.

DOC: (Cont'd)

(UNDER NARRATION)

to share in this glorious time then there are two things which must be performed by every man and woman on earth. And you, here in this room with me tonight know what those two things are.

One ... you must preserve your health.

(CAMERA NOW REVEALS A "MINISTER" SITTING ON THE PLATFORM NEAR HIM. A THIN ASECTIC FACED MAN NAMED "REVEREND" DICKINSON)

Two ... you must help people around you. All people. Rich, poor, sick and well. Help them ... as you help yourselves.

(HE IS ON FULL ... AS NARRATION ENDS)

DOC:

What's in your body, dear friends?
Do you realize the life and death struggle that never stops going

DOC: (Cont'd)

On? Twisting and turning ...
fighting one another. All the
atoms inside us going at it all
day long when we're walking and
working and carrying on ... and
all night long when you're tired
from that long day's living? All
those atoms battling away hammer
and tongs ... like the devil him-
self setting up a war of hell
fire and damnation in which maybe
he decides who's going to come out
on top. There's the death atoms ..
and there's the life atoms. But
now science has the devil beat.
Science knows what makes up the
death that keeps trying to take
you. Science knows it's the
electrical atoms. But science
knows even more. Science knows
that the life atoms ... the ones
we have to protect ... the ones
that are going to keep us on this
sweet green earth ... science knows
that they're the thermal atoms.
As a body gets older ... the elec-
trical atoms keep coming ... more

DOC: (Cont'd)

and more ... millions of them ready
to take over. You have to fight
them, friends. You have to use
the new wonder ... the new dis-
covery. You have to use ethereal
atomic force!

(PAN THE AUDIENCE
AS HE TALKS UNDER
NARRATION)

DOC:
Every time you
breathe, you breathe
in atomic energy.
Your body is operated
by atomic energy.
Every cell in your
body is dependent
on the coming together
of the atoms so you
can live and when the
time comes that you
become atomically de-
ficient so that you
can't live ... well
then, you die and
nothing in this world
is going to save you.

EDWARDS: (VO)

The customers are new ... the
technique old.

Take a new scientific de-
velopment. Then use its
name on a fake but impres-
sive looking machine. After
that call it ... the new hope
of mankind. Most people ...
will believe it. This man
... is an exception. His
name ... Roy Thornton. His
job ... Field Inspector for
the United States Food and
Drug Administration. The
health agency guarding the
American people against in-
ferior foods, medicines and
fraud.

(CAMERA COMES TO THORNTON,
LATE THIRTIES, PLEASANT
LOOKING, EASY GOING MAN
WHO IS LISTENING QUIETLY.
NEXT TO HIM IS A MAN ...
LATE FIFTIES ... LISTEN-
ING INTENTLY, NERVOUSLY ..
A MAN UNDER TENSION ...
HIS NAME, WILBUR)

DOC: (Cont'd)

(UNDER NARRATION)

People ignore thermo
atoms ... they just don't
pay any attention. They
ignore the only thing that
can save their lives.

(HE IS UP FULL AGAIN ... THE
NARRATION OVER)

DOC:

Now don't think I'm not prepared,
friends ... don't think I'm not
prepared to be ignored myself.
But I remember someone else who
was ignored. I remember Noah.
What happened with Noah? Noah
said there would be a flood and
the people all said the old man
had been out drinking wine some-
where.

CUT TO:

(TWO-SHOT - ROY AND WILBUR)

WILBUR:

What are you waiting for? Get him now.

ROY:

(QUIETLY)

I need more. Let him talk.

CUT TO:

(DOC. PAN THE AUDIENCE WITH BELOW)

DOC:

Now ... I'll tell you something else. The reason diseases are incurable and chronic. You'd like to know that, wouldn't you, friends? Of course you would and I'm going to tell you right now. Thermo application. The thermo application of atomic force.

(CAMERA COMES TO A MAN IN A CENTER ROW, NAMED ARNOLD COATES, FORTY, NONDESCRIPT. HE SEEMS MILDLY AMUSED. AS WE HEAR DOC TALK ... COATES LOOKS AROUND AT THE AUDIENCE TO SEE HOW THEY ARE TAKING IT. THEN ... SUDDENLY HIS GLANCE SEEMS TO STIFFEN SOMEWHAT)

CUT TO:

(P.O.V. COATES ... LOOKING AT ROY
THORNTON)

DOC:

(TALKING ALL THE WHILE)

Now how do you get this thermo
application? Medicine won't do
it. I've been a doctor for
twenty-seven years and I'm tell-
ing you that most medicine is
poison. How can you expect
poison to cure anything?

CUT TO:

(DOC)

DOC:

What you need is a non-medical
treatment. And this isn't medicine
I offer. It's nature ... the laws
of nature coming back into our
bodies. Friends ... so many of
you have asked to see it tonight.
So many of you want to know all
about it. Well ... here it is
then. Here ... is the Atometer.

(HE SWEEPS THE COVER OFF THE MACHINE
ON THE PLATFORM. IT IS A WHITE KIT-
CHEN CABINET. INSIDE, ON THE FIRST

SHELF ... ARE TWO FLOOD LAMPS. ONE
BLUE ... ONE YELLOW. ON THE BOTTOM
OF THE CABINET ARE TWO LARGE GALLON
JARS. A FEW SWITCHES INSIDE THE
CABINET TAKE AWAY FROM THE ESSENTIAL
PLAINNESS OF THE SETUP)

(CLOSE SHOT - ATOMETER)

DOC: (Cont'd)

Irradiated water, friends. Life
giving water. This side here ...
is the electrical side ... which
works on the electrical atoms.
This side is where the T water ...
the thermal water is made. Both
these lamps impregnate the water
the same as the sun gets into the
rivers and the springs.

(CLOSE SHOT - DOC)

DOC:

The human body is 80% liquid and
is sustained by the atoms in the
air or in the ethers. These atoms
in the air come from the sun and
sunlight is the greatest healer.
We all know that. Why, look at
the sunbathers.

CUT TO:

(TWO-SHOT - ROY THORNTON AND WILBUR)

WILBUR:

(AGITATED)

Stop him.

(ROY PUTS A RESTRAINING HAND ON HIS
ARM)

(CAMERA PULLS BACK OF THEM TO GET A
SHOT OF DOC)

DOC:

What the Atometer does is to carry
the elements of light and water
into the body by the process of
actenation which is a defusion of
the atoms of the sun's rays.

(CAMERA IS WATCHING WILBUR ... HARDLY
ABLE TO CONTAIN HIMSELF)

(ROY IS HARD PUT TO KEEP BACK A TOUCH
OF ADMIRATION FOR DOC'S INGENUITY)

DOC:

Doctors who have tested this ir-
radiated water say that chemical
analysis shows it to be H₂O. Yet
they've all been forced to admit
that ordinary city water is changed
so that it tastes like spring water
... which has been irradiated by
sunlight.

(WILBUR JUMPS UP)

WILBUR:

Stop it ... stop it, you cheap
crook.

(REACTION FROM AUDIENCE AS "REVEREND"
DICKINSON HURRIEDLY RISES)

DICKINSON:

Just a moment, please.

(ANGLE FEATURING COATES AS HE WATCHES)

WILBUR:

He's a crook ... and he's going
to be put in jail ... where he
belongs. Right now.

DICKINSON:

Dr. Turner is our guest here and
he ...

DOC:

(UNPERTURBED)

It's all right, Reverend. I don't
mind the interruption.

(TO WILBUR)

You've got a right to disbelieve,
brother. You've got a right to
ignore the truth. That's your
privilege.

WILBUR:

It's my privilege to see you put
where you belong. This is Mr.
Thornton ... from the government.